

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 23, 2008 and the Advisory Action dated March 23, 2009. Claims 7 to 18 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 7, 11 and 15 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 7 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Publication No. 2001/0033554 (Ayyagari) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0133415 (Rappaport). Despite Applicant's February 23, 2009 Response pointing out the deficiencies in the art, the rejections were nonetheless indicated as being maintained in the Advisory Action. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested in light of the following comments.

The present invention concerns a communication apparatus determining whether the communication apparatus and a controlled device are directly connected to a predetermined transmission medium. In the invention, the communication apparatus first detects the controlled device from among a plurality of devices connected via a network and obtains an IP address for the controlled device. The communication apparatus then transmits a request for inquiring whether the controlled device having an obtained IP address is connected to the predetermined transmission medium, where the communication apparatus is connected to the predetermined transmission medium, and the request is transmitted via the predetermined transmission medium. The communication apparatus then determines whether the communication apparatus and the controlled device are directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium. Here, if a response

corresponding to the request is received from the controlled device, then it is determined that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium. On the other hand, if no response to the request is received from the controlled device, then the communication apparatus determines that the controlled device and the communication apparatus are not directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium, and warning information is displayed on a display unit.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 7 is directed to a communication apparatus capable of connecting to a network including a plurality of transmission media and capable of controlling a controlled device having a predetermined function, comprising a device detecting unit that (a) detects the controlled device among a plurality of devices connected to the network, and (b) obtains an IP address of the controlled device, a communication unit that transmits a request for inquiring whether the controlled device having the obtained IP address is connected to a predetermined transmission medium, the communication apparatus being directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium, the request being transmitted via the predetermined transmission medium, and a determining unit that determines whether the communication apparatus and the controlled device are directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium, wherein the determining unit (a) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium, if a response corresponding to the request is received from the controlled device, and (b) determines that the communication apparatus and the

controlled device are not directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium, if no response to the request is received from the controlled device, wherein the communication apparatus displays warning information on a display unit if the determining unit determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are not directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium.

Claims 11 and 15 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 7.

The applied art of Comp is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 7, 11 and 15, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a communication apparatus i) determining whether the communication apparatus and the controlled device are directly connected to a predetermined transmission medium, wherein the determining unit/step (a) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium, if a response corresponding to the request is received from the controlled device, and (b) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are not directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium, if no response to the request is received from the controlled device, wherein the communication apparatus displays warning information on a display unit if the determining unit determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are not directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium.

Ayyagari discloses a proxy-bridge device that utilizes a protocol stack such that the proxy-bridge device is just another device in a piconet to other devices in the

piconet. The Office Action and the Advisory Action asserted that Ayyagari teaches that both devices are connected using two different protocols, and also asserted that the claims only require one or the other condition, but not both. However, the claimed invention does not recite determining whether the devices are connected using different protocols, but rather, recites that a determination is made whether the devices are directly connected to a predetermined transmission medium. Moreover, the claims do indeed recite a feature not taught by Ayyagari in that Ayyagari does not teach that a determination is made that the devices are not directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium of no response is received, and Ayyagari further fails to teach displaying warning information on a display unit in this case. The Advisory Action more or less admits to this shortcoming of Ayyagari in that, regarding the second condition, the Advisory Action states that such a feature would merely have been obvious. (See comment 4 in the Advisory Action). Thus, Ayyagari is not seen to teach the foregoing features of the invention.

Rappaport discloses a system that provides a display model of a communication network. Rappaport, however, is not seen to teach anything that, when combined with Ayyagari, would have resulted in at least the features of a communication apparatus i) determining whether the communication apparatus and the controlled device are directly connected to a predetermined transmission medium, wherein the determining unit/step (a) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium, if a response corresponding to the request is received from the controlled device, and (b) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are not directly connected to the

predetermined transmission medium, if no response to the request is received from the controlled device, wherein the communication apparatus displays warning information on a display unit if the determining unit determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are not directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of the applied art, Claims 7 to 18 are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Edward Kmett/

Edward A. Kmett
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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